far been taken for commercial discovery of hydro-carbons in West Bengal and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): Exploration work for hydrocarbon prospecting in West Bengal has been continuing since 1949. The details of exploration work done in West Bengal are as under:

Drilling		
No. of Wells drilled	26	(including 10 by Indo-Stanvac Petroleum Project)
No. of wells under drilling	3	
Surveys		
Seismic (SLK+GLK)	37,500	(including 7,700 by Indo-Stanvac Petroleum Project)
Geological (Sq. KM equivalent of Semi detailed mapping)	8,800	
Gravity Magnetic No. of Stations)	47,200	

No commercial discovery of hydrocarbons has been made so far in West Bengal.

1433. [Transferred to the 18th August, 1988]

Coal Washeries and Coal Slurry in the River Bed

1434. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 7 coal washeries by the side of River Damodar in Bihar;

(b) if so, what is their total capacity;

(c) whether it is a fact that considerable quantum of coal turned into 'fires' is deposited as 'Slurry' in the river bed:

(d) whether it is also a fact that powerful agencies are operating to get control over these 'slurries' in which the contractors and some BCCL officials are interested; and

(e) whether it is a fact that from the 'slurry' 55-60 per cent of fire coal with 15-16 per cent ash content is recoverable?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 7 coal washeries situated near the Damodar River. Their total operable capacity is about 13.25 million tonnes per annum of raw coal.

(c) No, Sir. During the rainy season, however, small quantities of coal fines that escape recovery at the washery end find their way through the nallahs into river.

(d) No, Sir. Contractors are engaged by Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., through open tender system for a specified period for extracting coal fines from the slurry settling ponds.

(e) Yes, Sir. This is, however, possible only if the slurry is subjected to froth floatation process and not by the ordinary settling ponds method.

Development of Formed Coke Technology

1435. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Formed Coke Technology developed by CFRI, Dhanbad is not being promoted by Government; and

(b) if not, what steps have been taken to produce formed coke indigenously to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Central Fuel Research Institute has developed the technology for production of formed coke on a pilot plant scale. Formed coke produced on the basis of this technology was tested in low shaft blast furnaces of Kalinga Iron Works, Barbil (Orissa)